

Not only for our bountiful harvest are we thankful at this season. In the hearts of millions of American parents there is the deeper note of thanksgiving for complete victory and the return of our sons to their homes. Furthermore, the hope of a durable peace is stronger than ever before in world history. For these things let us give thanks.

Two symbols should mark the observance of this Thanksgiving Day. One is the Flag of our Nation, to which new lustre has been added by countless deeds of heroism in the unprecedented war in which our Nation engaged. The other is the Bible, which is the foundation of our religious life and to which the people of the Nation are turning in ever-increasing numbers for guidance and consolation. It is earnestly hoped that on this Thanksgiving Day our people will display the Flag and likewise find time to read appropriate sections from the Bible in the homes, in public assemblies, as well as in private.

There is every reason for a general expression of thanks and gratitude on the part of our people, and it is hoped that more generally than ever before the people of this State and Nation will observe this significant event.

Therefore, in the spirit of our first national Thanksgiving, I, J. Melville Broughton, governor of North Carolina, do proclaim and set aside Thursday, November 23, 1944, as a legal holiday in North Carolina and a day of general thanksgiving, to be set apart for religious and patriotic consecration; and I do call upon the people of our State to renew their allegiance to the ideals and principles upon which our Republic was founded; to reconsecrate themselves to the cause of popular government and free institutions; to acknowledge anew our dependence upon Almighty God; and to rekindle their devotion to everlasting spiritual values.

It is also urged that earnest prayer be made for an early peace throughout the world, based upon justice, freedom, and democracy.

In witness whereof, I, J. Melville Broughton, governor of North Carolina, have signed and caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed hereto, in our City of Raleigh, this seventh day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and forty-four and in the one hundred and sixty-ninth year of American Independence.

J. Melville Broughton, *Governor*.

By the Governor:

Chas. Z. Flack, *Private Secretary*.